

Frequently Asked Questions

Why does FWP want a Workgroup?

The fishery resources of the mid-Missouri River Reservoir system are very important to Montana's anglers, as well as the citizens and businesses in the nearby communities. FWP wants to have a dialogue with these groups in order to understand their concerns and try to meet their expectations for these waterbodies. This can be achieved by assembling a group of people who not only represent a wide diversity of interests and perspectives, but are also willing to work collaboratively and devote time to the process.

What will be the authority of the workgroup?

The primary function of the workgroup will be to help develop fish management alternatives for public review. Workgroup members will be encouraged and expected to communicate with their communities and constituents about the process and alternatives as they are being developed.

The workgroup will not be charged with the task of reaching consensus on a preferred alternative, and the authority for approval of a final plan rests entirely with the Director of FWP.

How do I nominate a person to be on the workgroup?

Nomination forms are available on the FWP website at mt.gov.fwp. Forms can be sent via e-mail, U.S. mail, or through an online form available on the website. Nomination forms must be submitted by December 1, 2008.

Can I nominate myself for the workgroup?

Nominees are welcome to nominate themselves to the workgroup. Please highlight any experience that fits the needs and purpose of the workgroup and emphasize any familiarity with working on a collaborative effort to reach a common goal.

I have an interest in more than one group or interest to be represented on the workgroup.

Can one person represent multiple groups/interests?

Yes. Many workgroup members will likely have a stake in more than one interest in the management plan process. Please clearly mark the groups or interests the nominee would best represent on the Nomination Form.

When and how can I make comments regarding fish management of the reservoir system?

Comments are welcome anytime during the planning process. Comments can be sent via e-mail at umrrfmp@mt.gov or through the U.S. Mail to UMRRFMP Workgroup, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. You can also send comments to workgroup members once the members are in place. Contact information for workgroup members will be available on the FWP website. There will also be a formal comment period when the draft Management Plan is released late-summer, 2009.

Where can I view a copy of the Upper Missouri River Reservoir Fisheries Management Plan, 2000-2009?

You can view the 2000-2009 management plan at the FWP website at fwp.mt.gov/fishing. You can also request a hard copy sent to you at the e-mail or mailing address above.

When and where will workgroup meetings be held? How long will meetings last?

Most workgroup meetings will take place at the MACO Building at 2715 Skyway Drive in Helena. The workgroup will convene roughly once a month and meet 6-8 times. Meeting dates and times will be determined by the workgroup. The first meeting will be held mid-January, 2009. Meetings will likely last all day.

Will workgroup members be required to attend all the meetings?

Yes. Members will be required to attend every meeting. Substitutes or proxies will not be allowed.

How can I follow the progress of the workgroup?

Information on workgroup meetings, agendas, and minutes will be available on the FWP website.

Will FWP preside over meetings of the workgroup?

FWP has hired a private facilitator to direct workgroup meetings. The facilitator will conduct the monthly meeting in a positive and inclusive manner, help develop and enforce ground rules for member conduct and meeting operation, and help the workgroup identify pertinent issues and develop effective fisheries management alternatives.

How long will the workgroup be in place?

The duties of the workgroup are considered complete when FWP releases the draft management plan for public review in late-Summer, 2009. Workgroup members may be asked to attend public open houses after release of the draft management plan to discuss management alternatives considered by the workgroup.